

REMARKS

By this amendment, claim 52 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 44, 50 and 53 are amended. Claims 1-43 have been previously cancelled. Currently, claims 44-51 and 53 are pending in the application, of which claims 44 and 50 are independent.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments do not add new matter to the application and are fully supported by the specification. In view of the above Amendments and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections for the reasons discussed below.

OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION

The specification was objected to for several informalities. This objection is respectfully traversed.

The specification is amended to replace "date" with --data-- in paragraph [0059], as suggest by the Examiner. The Examiner also pointed out that "date" should be replaced with --data-- in paragraph [0027]. However, this paragraph has been corrected in the Preliminary Amendment filed on November 13, 2003.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the specification.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 44-53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,111,620 issued to Nishiki, et al. ("Nishiki"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

With respect to claim 44-49, independent claim 44 is amended to further recite:

“..., wherein the first and second testing bars are formed on a plane different from a plane on which the first and second wires are formed;
an insulating layer covering the first and second wires and the first and second testing bars and having a plurality of openings exposing the first and second wires and the first and second testing bars;
a plurality of first connecting members formed on the insulating layer and connecting the first wires to the first testing bar via the openings; and
a plurality of second connecting members formed on the insulating layer and connecting the second wires to the second testing bar via the openings.”

An example of this claimed feature is shown in Figs. 8 and 10. Particularly in Fig. 8, the gate line 50 is formed on the substrate and the testing bars 410 and 420 are formed on the gate insulating film 150. Thus, the testing bars 410 and 420 are formed on a plane that is different from a plane on which the gate line 50 is formed. Also, the passivation film 250 covers the gate line 50 and the testing bars 410 and 420. Further, the connecting member 410 is formed on the passivation film 250 and connects the gate line 50 to the testing bar 410 via the openings “a” and “b”.

In this regard, Fig. 4(b) of Nishiki shows the gate line 1a and the testing bars 6a and 6b are formed on the substrate. Thus, Fig. 4(b) fails to disclose "the first and second testing bars are formed on a plane different from a plane on which the first and second wires are formed", as recited in claim 44.

Fig. 4(a) of Nishiki shows the testing bars 7a, 7b and 7c are formed on the substrate and the data line is formed on the gate insulating layer 9. However, in Fig. 4(a), the data line 21 forms a direct contact with the corresponding testing bar 7b. Thus, Fig. 4(a) fails to show a connecting member formed on an insulating layer covering both the data line 2a and the testing bars 7a, 7b and 7c, and (b), as claimed.

Thus, none of Fig. 4(a) and 4(b) completely shows "..., wherein the first and second testing bars are formed on a plane different from a plane on which the first and second wires are formed; an insulating layer covering the first and second wires and the first and second testing bars and having a plurality of openings exposing the first and second wires and the first and second testing bars; a plurality of first connecting members formed on the insulating layer and connecting the first wires to the first testing bar via the openings; and a plurality of second connecting members formed on the insulating layer and connecting the second wires to the second testing bar via the openings."

For this reason, it is submitted that claim 44 is patentable over Nishiki. Claims 45-49 are dependent from claim 44 and hence would be also patentable at least for the same reason.

With respect to claims 50-53, independent claim 50 is amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 52 and to add more limitations thereto. Amended claim 50 recites

“wherein the first and second testing bars are formed on a plane different from a plane on which the first and second signal lines are formed; an insulating layer covering the first and second signal lines and the first and second testing bars and having a plurality of openings exposing the first and second signal lines and the first and second testing bars; a plurality of first connecting members formed on the insulating layer and connecting the first signal lines to the first testing bar via the openings; and a plurality of second connecting members connecting the second signal lines to the second testing bar via the openings.”

As mentioned above, Nishiki fails to disclose or suggest this claimed feature. Thus, it is submitted that claim 50 is patentable over Nishiki. Claims 51 and 53 are dependent from claim 50 and hence would be also patentable at least for the same reason.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection of claims 44-51 and 53.

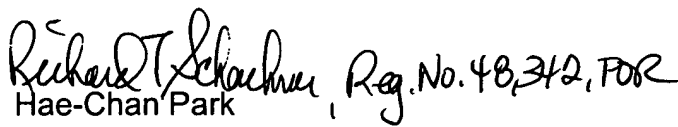
CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action and respectfully submits that all of the stated objections and grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,


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